

## Critical appraisal of...the Introduction

1. Does the article attempt to answer the same question as your clinical question?
2. Is the article recently published (within 5 years) or is it seminal (i.e. an earlier article but which has strongly influenced later developments)?
3. Is the journal peer-reviewed?
4. Do the authors present a hypothesis?

## Critical appraisal of...the Methods

5. Is the study design valid for your question?
6. Are both inclusion and exclusion criteria described?
7. Is there an attempt to limit bias in the selection of participant groups?
8. Are there methodological protocols (i.e. blinding) used to limit other possible bias?
9. Do the research methods limit the influence of confounding variables?
10. Are the outcome measures valid for the health condition you are researching?

## Critical appraisal of...the Results

11. Is there a table that describes the subjects' demographics?
12. Are the baseline demographics between groups similar?
13. Are the subjects generalizable to your patient?
14. Are the statistical tests appropriate for the study design and clinical question?
15. Are the results presented within the paper?
16. Are the results statistically significant and how large is the difference between groups?
17. Is there evidence of significance fishing (i.e. changing statistical tests to ensure significance)?

## Critical appraisal of...the Discussion/Conclusion

18. Do the authors attempt to contextualise non-significant data in an attempt to portray significance? (e.g. talking about findings which had a *trend* towards significance as if they were significant).
19. Do the authors acknowledge limitations in the article?
20. Are there any conflicts of interests noted?